51. No works were carried out through the agency of the Public Works Department.

(b) Protection of Forests from Injury.

(1) General Protection and Breaches of Forest Law.

(a) General Protection.

52. The protective establishment has remained unchanged during the year.

Fresh instructions have been issued by Government on the proposals relating to the reorganisation of the subordinate Forest establishments submitted in response to their Resolution No. 5811, dated 29th July 1896, and all the Conservators in the Bombay Presidency have been directed to consult together and resubmit them on a uniform plan.

(b) Breaches of Forest Law.

Cases tried by Magistrates.

53. The following statement shows the number of cases tried by Magistrates for breaches of Forest law during the years 1895-96 and 1896-97, with the result of the trials :—

Division.	Cases of 1895-96.						Cases of 1896-97.						Pending in Court on 1st July 1897.	Percentage of failure.	
	Pending in Court on 1st July 1895.	Taken into Court during the year.	Total.	Disposed of by Magistrates during the year.			Pending in Court on 1st July 1896.	Taken into Court during the year.	Total.	Disposed of by Magistrates during the year.				1895-96.	1896-97.
				Convicted.	Acquitted.	Total.				Convicted.	Acquitted.	Total.			
Sukkur ...	...	29	29	12	8	20	9	31	40	19	9	28	12	40	32
Naushahro ...	3	28	31	12	11	23	8	14	22	11	4	15	7	48	27
Hyderabad ...	4	25	29	17	8	25	4	11	15	2	3	5	10	32	60
Jerruck ...	...	3	3	1	1	2	1	4	5	2	2	4	1	50	50
Total ...	7	85	92	42	28	70	22	60	82	34	18	52	30	40	35

54. The year opened with 22 cases awaiting trial and 60 were taken into Court during the year. Of the total number, 52 were disposed of by the 30th June 1897, with the result that there were 34 convictions and 18 acquittals. The percentage of failures for the Circle has fallen from 40 to 35, which appears still somewhat high, but it is not actually so. When the number of prosecutions is small, as in the Sukkur and Jerruck Divisions, the slightest variation in the number of cases convicted or acquitted affects the proportion so considerably as to tend to an abnormal rise or fall in the percentage of failures, and such being the case in the year 1896-97 the results are not discouraging as they appear at first sight, but show a geneal improvement over those of 1895-96.

Comparative statement of prosecutions.

55. In the statement following, the number and nature of new cases taken into Court during the two years 1895-96 and 1896-97 are compared :—

Division.	New cases of the year.								Total.	
	Injury to forest by fire.		Unauthorised felling or appropriation of wood and other minor forest produce.		Grazing without permission or in tracts in which grazing is prohibited.		Other offences.			
	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.
Sukkur ...	...	3	19	6	8	7	2	15	29	31
Naushahro ...	2	1	11	3	...	...	15	10	28	14
Hyderabad ...	...	...	17	8	4	1	4	2	25	11
Jerruck ...	...	1	1	1	2	...	...	2	3	4
Total ...	2	5	48	18	14	8	21	29	85	60